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SOURCE As indicated

RECENT MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SATELLITES

GDR FORMS SPECIAL UNITS TO COMBAT GUERRILLAS -- Hamburg, Hamburger Echo, 16 Nov 53

The Secretariat of the SSD (Staatssicherheitsdienst, State Security Service) has been ordered by the GDR government to form special units, patterned after the MVD, to combat resistance groups, rebels, and guerrillas.

Lieutenant General Mielke of the SSD is in charge of these units, which are composed of carefully selected men and officers of the Garrisoned People's Police and of loyal members of the SED (Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands, German Socialist Unity Party). Previous plans of the SSD Secretariat to form these special units entirely with men of the Garrisoned People's Police had to be abandoned since they proved politically unreliable and were infiltrated by the West. The men, selected on the basis of ruthlessness and political reliability, are being trained by special instructors and training officers of the SSD. They are armed with modern automatic weapons, artillery pieces, and tanks and will be quartered in isolated barracks. The units are organized as motorized squads, which can be speedily dispatched to trouble spots.

The formation of the special units has been speeded up because it is feared that the continuous unrest and fighting in Czechoslovakia might spread to the GDR.

CZECH MILITARY FORCES NOT BELIEVED RELIABLE -- Hamburg, Hamburger Echo, 16 Nov 53

According to reports reaching Berlin, continuous skirmishes are going on in the forests of northern Bohemia near Chomutov. The Czech military forces have not proved reliable in these operations. During the past weeks, bombs were set off three times in the Military Academy in Prague.

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UNREST IN THE BULGARIAN ARMY -- Istanbul, Cumhuriyet, 15 Nov 53

Vienna, 14 November -- Reports reaching Vienna from Bulgaria indicate that unrest is spreading in the Bulgarian Army. Three members of the 73d Bulgarian Infantry Regiment have been shot for attempted desertion.

SOVIET DESERTERS JOIN GDR RESISTANCE FORCES -- Paris, Danube-Press, 1 Nov 53

Soviet deserters, among them the former commandant of the Grossenhain air base, have joined the resistance forces in the GDR in order to fight the Communist authorities.

SOVIET TROOPS IN GDR BATTLE MILITARY POLICE -- New York, Staatszeitung und Harold, 13 Jan 54

Eberswalds (undated) -- In a forest near Finowfurt, a fight took place between members of a Soviet armored unit stationed at Eberswalde and a detachment of Soviet military police. The soldiers, after the end of their maneuvers, refused to obey orders to return to the Soviet Union and deserted, taking their arms with them. A widespread search by military police was started at once. When the deserters were discovered in the forest, they exchanged fire with the military police. Three soldiers were killed in the fight.

MOVEMENTS OF SOVIET TROOPS IN RUMANIA -- Athens, Le Messenger d'Athenes, 29 Oct 53

A series of unusual movements of Soviet troops has taken place in Rumania. Units at Jimbolia, near the Hungarian frontier, have been transferred to Galati. Other units at Buzau were sent to the Hungarian frontier. On the other hand, troops, especially tank-equipped units, have been sent from the USSR to Rumania.

SOVIET UNITS QUARTERED NEAR SOFIA -- Athens, Eleftheros Logos, 15 Nov 53

According to a report in the Stuttgarter Zeitung [date not given], Soviet mechanized units are quartered in large buildings on the outskirts of Sofia.

USSR CONDUCTS PARACHUTE TRAINING OF CZECH AND POLISH FORCES -- Zurich, Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 25 Nov 53, AM

At the Czechoslovak-USSR border, training centers for Czechoslovak artillery and parachute units have been established in the villages of Ulkne Krive Zboj, Ulic, and Ubla, with staff headquarters in Rusky Hrabovec. Courses are conducted by a crack parachute unit of the Soviet Army, known as Uzok.

The first joint training course of Polish and Czech noncommissioned officers took place in the spring of 1952; it was conducted by Czech Captain Lucky under the supervision of Lieutenant [sic] Karablenko, chief of the Soviet parachute division of Kolomya [Kolomna?].

Courses are usually climaxed by maneuvers during which parachutists are dropped in an "enemy" zone with partisan support.

Soviet authorities are satisfied with joint training under their command, since it improves the fighting morale of the Czech who "lacks initiative and creative intuition in parachuting."

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